

WHOLE NO. 6553
NEWS BY TELEGRAPH.
Message of the President of the United States.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.
THE COLT INVESTIGATION.

Passage of the River and Harbor Bill.
GENERAL HOUTSON AND HIS DEFAMERS.

SALARIES OF SUPREME COURT JUDGES.
The New York Assay Office.

Indemnity to the London Crystal Palace Account.
THE GENERAL APPROPRIATION BILL.

Important from Washington.
MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT ON OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.

WASHINGTON, August 1, 1854.
The President transmits the following message:—

TO THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES:—
I hasten to respond briefly to the resolution of the Senate of this date, requiring the President to inform the Senate, in his opinion, it is not incompatible with the public interest, whether anything has arisen since the date of his message to the House of Representatives, of the 16th of March last, concerning our relations with the government of Spain, which, in his opinion, may depend upon the suggestions therein contained, touching the propriety of provisional measures by Congress to meet any exigency that may arise in the recess of Congress affecting those relations.

In message to the House of Representatives referred to, I availed myself of the occasion to present the following reflections and suggestions:—In view of the position of the United States, in relation to Spain, and the relations which it must ever bear to our commercial and other interests, it is in my opinion, that a series of unfriendly acts, infringing our commercial rights, and the exercise of a policy threatening the honor and security of these States, can long exist with peaceful relations. In case the measures taken for the amicable adjustment of our difficulties with Spain should unfortunately fail, I shall not hesitate to use the authority and power of our just rights, to obtain redress for injuries received, and to vindicate the honor of our flag. In anticipation of that contingency which I earnestly hope may not arise, I suggest to Congress the propriety of adopting provisional measures as the exigency may seem to demand.

The two Houses of Congress may have anticipated that the long time expressed would be realized before the period of the adjournment, and that our relations with Spain would have assumed a satisfactory condition, so as to remove past causes of complaint, and afford better security for tranquillity and peace to our commerce.

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THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS.
FIRST SESSION.
Senate.

WASHINGTON, August 1, 1854.
The Senate met at half-past ten o'clock. The reading of the journal was dispensed with.

REPRESENTATION FOR MISSOURI AS DELEGATION.
Mr. Foot's (whig) of Va., resolution to pay for certain services as draughtsmen to the Committee on Public Lands was adopted.

BILL INTRODUCED.
Mr. NORRIS (dem.) of N. H., introduced a bill to incorporate the Friends' All Society in the District of Columbia.

BILLS PASSED.
Bills for the relief of Sherman Pearce and Daniel Stearns were considered and passed.

The bill authorizing the President to take charge of the Louisville and Portland Canal was taken up and passed.

Mr. HOUTSON'S DEFAMERS.
Mr. HOUTSON (dem.) of Texas, then addressed the Senate in defense of his military and political conduct during the Texas revolution, and the days of the rebellion, from certain charges, imputations, and infamous slanders contained in a book called the "History of Texas, Mexico, and the United States," by General Thomas Jefferson Green, a book which had found its way into the Congressional library. He reviewed the conduct of Green in Texas, and pronounced him a dastard most ill-favored—a man of most puerile cowardice.

He continued until a quarter past twelve. His remarks had general interest.

OUR RELATIONS WITH SPAIN.
Mr. MASON (dem.) of Va., offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the President be requested to inform the Senate, in his opinion, it is not incompatible with the public interest, whether anything has arisen since the date of his message to the House of Representatives, of the 16th of March last, concerning our relations with the government of Spain, which, in his opinion, may depend upon the suggestions therein contained, touching the propriety of provisional measures by Congress to meet any exigency that may arise in the recess of Congress affecting those relations.

In message to the House of Representatives referred to, I availed myself of the occasion to present the following reflections and suggestions:—In view of the position of the United States, in relation to Spain, and the relations which it must ever bear to our commercial and other interests, it is in my opinion, that a series of unfriendly acts, infringing our commercial rights, and the exercise of a policy threatening the honor and security of these States, can long exist with peaceful relations.

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THE LONDON CENTRAL PALACE.
The Senate's amendment, enabling the Secretary of State to reimburse Edward Riddle's sums as he may be satisfied to have been expended by him, or which may have obligated himself to pay, on account of his official position at the Industrial Exhibition at London, or so much thereof as shall be necessary, twenty-six thousand dollars, provided no portion of the payments made, pro rata, by the contributors, at said exhibition, shall be regarded as being under consideration.

Speeches were made for and against, during the debate which ensued.

Mr. CHANDLER (whig) of Pa., eulogized Mr. Peabody, who, in the hour of extremity of our citizens abroad, stepped forward and advanced a large sum of money, to carry out the objects of American exhibitors. The conduct of the eminent banker demands not only the return of the money, but the thanks of every man who has an American heart.

Mr. WALLINGFORD (dem.) of N. Y., advocated the amendment, showing the pressing circumstances under which the money was procured, being familiar with the facts from his personal knowledge.

Mr. SOLLERS opposed the amendment, and said he would, if he could, reduce the appropriation to a red cent. He warned the democracy against the consequences of extravagance, for he and other whigs would hold them responsible.

Mr. SHRY (dem.) of Va., opposed the bill, contending that Mr. Riddle was not officially appointed. He understood he was an auctioneer for the sale of carriages and horses in London.

Mr. HAYES (whig) of N. Y., said both whigs and democrats have the glory of the exhibition, and now it was for them to foot the bill.

Mr. BAYLY (dem.) of Va., thought to pay this amount would be a mischievous precedent. The amendment assumes that Mr. Riddle was there in an official capacity, which was not the case. He had no idea that private individuals should be allowed to appropriate money, and send agents to the world's fair, and then ask government to defray the expenses.

Mr. HUGHES (dem.) of N. Y., said he was surprised opposition was made to this appropriation. Time has elapsed since the necessity for this money occurred, but it was advanced by Mr. Peabody at a trying period, and all knew the brilliant results concerning the exhibition of American utilitarian inventions of the day. The gentleman from Virginia (Smith) had said that Mr. Riddle was a horse dealer. Now, it is no worse to be a horse dealer than to run a stage line in Virginia, whether it was an extra or regular line. (This was an allusion to Mr. Smith having formerly been a mail contractor.)

Mr. SMITH observed he had merely said Mr. Riddle was an auctioneer, selling horses and carriages.

Mr. HUGHES.—But you mentioned it as a reflection on Mr. Riddle, who, I understand, is as high minded a man as lives in Massachusetts, pursuing business. If he sold animals he would be quadrupled, and I am glad his antipathy to that kind.

Mr. WESTWORTH (dem.) of Ill.—If the friends of this bill want to kill it they can resort to no better means than to talk it to death.

Mr. GARRETT SMITH, of New York, felt the truth of the remark of Mr. Bayly, that this was a mischievous precedent; but the precedent does not reside where Mr. Bayly thought it did. It came into existence when our government embarked in this affair. If government had kept within its legitimate limits, protecting persons and property, they would not be annoyed with this amendment at the present time. He trusted, however, that the money would be paid, and that Mr. Peabody would be thanked for advancing it on the faith of this government.

Mr. KITT (dem.) of S. C., said this money had been claimed by Mr. Peabody on the ground of his American character, but how could they credit this when at the recent Fourth of July celebration "God Save the Queen" was preceded by "Hail Columbia," and the likeness of Queen Victoria placed ahead of that of General Washington? By what authority other than that of a central agricultural association here did Mr. Riddle go to London?

Mr. CHANDLER replied, saying Mr. Webster's name does not occur in Mr. Riddle's credentials, but that of Peter Forster.

After further debate, the Senate's amendment was rejected—66 against 80.

The Senate's amendment appropriating two hundred and forty-two thousand dollars for running a north-western boundary line between the United States and Great Britain, for making the forty-ninth parallel, and for such surveys as may be necessary to fix said boundary between Maine and Vancouver's Island having been read.

Mr. LANCASTER, of Washington Territory, argued in favor of it, showing the inconvenience and troubles of the Americans and British, not knowing the proper line.

Mr. CAMPBELL opposed any further appropriations for boundaries, believing the day not far distant when all the British possessions of this continent will belong to us.

Mr. FLORENCE (dem.) of Pa., moved the boundary be 54-40 (Laughter).

Mr. STRAKER (dem.) of Mich., said the amendment was not in order as no such line as 54-40 or 54-50 was within our possession.

The CHAIRMAN inclined to the opinion that Mr. Florence could move an amendment.

Mr. FLORENCE said he never believed we ought to confine ourselves to the forty-ninth parallel.

Mr. CAMPBELL very much regretted that the history of the country shows a certain political party flogged, to use a familiar expression.

The CHAIRMAN requested the gentleman to confine himself within the rules.

Mr. CAMPBELL gave notice of his intention to introduce a resolution looking to a correspondence with Great Britain, in view of the annexation of all the British possessions in North America. He called attention to the fact seriously and in good faith, not because he expected to carry the resolution this session, but he would follow it up next session, and give his reasons for the movement.

Mr. FLORENCE's amendment was rejected, and likewise that of the Senate.

The House then rejected the amendment appropriating half a million of dollars for the continuation of the work for supplying Washington and Georgetown with water.

The amendment for the construction of buildings for Custom Houses and Post Offices at the following places, was then read—Elizabethtown, Maine, \$10,000; Belfast, not more than \$20,000; Gloucester, Mass., Toledo, Ohio, Burlington, Vermont, and Sandusky, Ohio, not more than \$40,000 for each building. At the following places, also, to be used for courts—Milwaukee, Wisconsin, not more than \$50,000; New Haven, Conn., Newark, N. J., Buffalo, Oswego, Wheeling, Chicago, and Detroit, not more than \$85,000 each; Galveston, not more than \$100,000; Petersburg, not more than \$64,000.

Mr. FLORENCE said the gross amount is on million, eighteen thousand dollars for the mere erection of the buildings. The next clause provides that an additional sum, not exceeding ten per cent of the amount appropriated, shall be given over contingent expenses and the cost of superintendence. In addition thereto much money is to be appropriated for purchases of sites. He was opposed to such log rolling.

After some debate the amendment was agreed to—70 against 52.

The Senate's amendment authorizing the President to employ in his official household a secretary, clerk, steward, messenger and assistant messenger, and appropriating eleven thousand dollars for their salaries, having been read.

Mr. FLAGLER (whig) of N. Y., proceeded to prove that the President is against the amendment by reading from the inaugural address a chapter on economy. He wanted to know whether he could offer an extract from that document as an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN replied he could not.

Mr. FLAGLER—I apprehended a declaration of economy would not be in order in this bill.

Mr. GUNNISON asked whether he could offer an amendment appropriating one hundred dollars for a lady to take charge of the bed chamber.

The CHAIRMAN said he could not.

The present population of Portland, Me., is estimated at 20,000, an increase of 10,000 in four years, in consequence of the late railway improvements. The value of the taxable property is now about \$10,000,000 against \$12,000,000 in 1850.

THE CHAIRMAN said he could not.
The CHAIRMAN again said he could not.
Mr. GUNNISON—Then I'll not offer it.
Mr. FLORENCE (dem.) of N. Y., opposed the amendment. He had no use of increasing the President's salary in this indirect, petty, sideways manner. If the President's pay is not high enough, he would vote in an open and direct manner to increase it. This way of getting up a sort of kitchen or bed chamber committee was not in his opinion democratic.

Mr. HUBBARD (dem.) of N. Y., said this amendment was put in by the Senate, therefore he saw no pertinency in the remarks of the gentleman from New York. The President has not asked for this appropriation, and the Committee of Ways and Means has recommended it to be stricken out. The amendment was rejected.

The one hundred and thirty-nine amendments of the Senate having been acted on and most of them disagreed to, the committee rose and reported the bill. The main question ordered was on concurring in the action of the committee.

Mr. BARRETT moved to lay the bill on the table, pending which, at half-past eight, the House adjourned.</